



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Office of the General Counsel  
P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400



June 30 2020

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

[75035-19864997@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:75035-19864997@requests.muckrock.com)

**MUCKROCK NEWS**

c/o Martin Pfeiffer  
DEPT MR 74616  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer:

This letter is the final response to your June 8, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

**Your request stated the following:**

“Requesting SAND90-1605 which is described as in part providing the characteristics of the explosive and pyrotechnic devices used in the B53-1 and as available at the Pantex facility, on page 28 of the 1994 memo and document recommending acceptance of the B53 Nuclear Explosive Safety Study Report.”

Your request was received in our office on June 10, 2019. We contacted the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Production Office, Y-12 (NPO, Y-12) Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS), Sandia Field Office (NA-SN) and Sandia National Laboratory (SNL), to conduct a search for responsive records pertaining to your request. Searches were performed of both classified and unclassified record management systems by various subject matter experts using the key words “SAND,” and “Nuclear Explosive Safety Study Report.”

**The following responsive record was located:**

Document 1: M1-Sand 90-1605, Strong-link Symposium 90, October 24 & 25, 1990, (6 Pages).

It is provided to you with redactions pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), Exemption 6 of the FOIA.

The purpose of Exemption 6 is to protect individuals from the injury and embarrassment that can result from the unnecessary disclosure of personal information. To determine whether disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, the public interest in disclosure, if any, must be balanced against the privacy interests that would be invaded by disclosure of the information. In this case, the names of contractor employees have been withheld. Release of this information pertaining to these contractor employees will cause inevitable harassment and unwarranted solicitation for those individuals.

In addition, release of this information would not shed light on the operations of the federal government. Since its release will not reveal anything of significance to the public, the interest in protecting against the invasion of privacy that would result to the individual in question far outweighs the public interest in such disclosure.

It is widely held that federal employees have no expectation of privacy regarding their names, titles, and duty stations. See 5 CFR § 293.311 (1994); Core v. United States Postal Serv., 730 F.2d 946, 948 (4th Cir. 1984); National W. Life Ins. Co. v. United States, 512 F. Supp. 454, 461 (N.D. Tex. 1980). Therefore, the disclosure of such information about federal employees would involve little or no invasion of privacy. Contractor employees, however, are not federal employees. Rather, they are private individuals. The Supreme Court has long found a privacy interest in the names of private individuals significant enough to warrant protection from disclosure under Exemption 6.

Pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.7(b)(2), I am the individual responsible for the withholding of the information mentioned above pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA.

You may appeal the withholding of redacted information pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.8. Such an appeal must be made in writing within 90 calendar days after receipt of this letter, and may be submitted electronically to [OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov](mailto:OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov) or by regular mail, addressed to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, L'Enfant building, Washington, DC 20585. Your appeal must contain a concise statement of the grounds for the appeal and a description of the relief sought. Please submit a copy of this letter with the appeal. Please clearly mark both the envelope and the letter "Freedom of Information Appeal." Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the District of Columbia or in the district where (1) you reside, (2) you have your principal place of business, or (3) the Department's records are situated.

You may contact me, the NNSA's FOIA Public Liaison at 1-866-747-5994, or by mail at Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of the General Counsel, PO Box 5400, Albuquerque, NM 87185, for further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

There are no fees chargeable to you for processing this request. If you have questions please contact Mr. Roberto Marquez by e-mail at [Roberto.Marquez@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Roberto.Marquez@nnsa.doe.gov), or write to the address above. Please reference Control Number FOIA 19-00238-R.

Sincerely,

**Pamela  
Arias-Ortega**

Digitally signed by  
Pamela Arias-Ortega  
Date: 2020.06.30  
18:39:33 -06'00'

Pamela Arias-Ortega  
FOIA Officer

Enclosure

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